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The Underground

Think inside this box.

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Volume 22, Issue 21

UTSC
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AT SCARBOROUGH
RESIDENCES

Think About Residence!

- On average, students who live in residence achieve higher grades than those that live off-campus
- Living in residence means you are minutes away from classes, student services, and meetings with clubs, groups, and classmates
- Residence provides social, recreational, educational, and leadership opportunities that enhance your university experience
- Our residence environment is growing – we currently have 114 townhouses and are opening a new 231 bed apartment style residence in September 2003

WHERE ARE YOU STAYING THIS SUMMER?

All UTSC students who are studying on campus or working in Toronto are GUARANTEED residence accommodation for the summer if you apply by Friday, April 11th.

The summer residence period runs from May 11 - August 16th at a cost of $1505.

Weekly rate of $108.00 with a minimum stay of 2 weeks.

Applications are available at::
www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~residences/summerrates.html
or by calling 416-287-7365.

PUT YOURSELF IN THE RIGHT PLACE NEXT SEPTEMBER. STAY IN RESIDENCE.

All UTSC students are eligible to apply for accommodation in both our townhouses and our new 4 bedroom apartment style building.

If you are interested in residence, please fill out the required forms (reapplication form and registration form) available in the Student Housing and Residence Life office or on our website:
www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~residences/HowToApplyReturning.html

Deadline for applying for residence is Friday, March 14 at 5pm.

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The Underground

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Submission (BDSM) Policy

At **The Underground** we love unsolicited material, especially letters and opinion pieces. Should such material be typed or printed and delivered to **The Underground**'s snazzy portable by or before noon on the Friday prior to the desired publication date, we will more than likely print it. We kindly ask that submissions be of 800 words or less and that they include the writer's name and student number.

Submissions become the property of **The Underground** and may or may not be published at the whim of *The Editorial Board*. *The Board* reserves the right to poke fun at submissions, post them on the wall in **The Underground**'s snazzy portable (for the enjoyment of our staff and guests) or alter them in print in any way provided it is so acknowledged. By submission, authors implicitly bow down to the total editorial control of *The Editorial Board* and freely consent to the addition witty comments and criticisms (especially in the case of libelous or malicious submissions) courtesy of the snarky editors.

For a more official-sounding **Letters and Opinions Policy** contact ***undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca***

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plebitorial

How to put an election where they won't see it

Some of you might remember President Mugabe's political party was unfairly re-elected to govern Zimbabwe. The whole election process was scandalized by reports of ballot tampering, restrictive voting processes and allegations that Mugabe's party rigged the elections by preventing Zimbabweans from voting for the opposition party.

It looks like the SCSU has taken a note from Mugabe's book.

The 2003 SCSU elections are shaping up to be way less than democratic. Case in point: The Nomination Period. The names of the nominated candidates were withheld by SCSU and elections staff for the duration of the nomination period, ostensibly to ensure that the nomination process remained fair and democratic. Even the student media (i.e. The Underground) was not permitted to know who was planning to run for what office until the Nomination Period closed. SCSU staff told the student press that "when students know that other students are running for the same positions [as them], they often drop out of the election..." Withholding the candidates' names was an attempt to prevent individuals from "waiting [until] the nomination deadline to submit their forms" so that they could be acclaimed to SCSU by running for an office where there were no other nominees. It seems like a noble cause, except that it doesn't prevent candidates from dropping out of the election later on. It doesn't even really help to ensure that we have the best candidates running for all possible positions. We have four potentially highly qualified candidates for President of SCSU... But it becomes clear, immediately, that not all four will be contenders for this position. One or two of those extremely qualified candidates might have run for one of the VP positions if they'd known who they would be running against. So we're potentially locked into a situation where nearly all of our most qualified candidates for the SCSU are competing for one position. Is that democracy?

Well, how about this? The student paper on campus only publishes once a week. By the time that any real election coverage can begin (around the time when the names of the candidates are released) there is only one issue before the elections, and that issue (the one you're reading), to make matters worse, is published on the first day of elections. Not only are students already voting by that point, but they cannot truly rely on the media for political debate. Poor advertising; i.e. late ads, no ads, or posters missing valuable information such as time and location of elections debate forums; compounds our problem even further. How much do you really know about the candidate that you just voted for? What if you missed that election forum? How can you inform yourself about the candidate's platforms when the campus media doesn't even have enough turnaround time to tell you what went on?

Did you vote already? I hope you voted for the girl with the pretty face, or the nice poster...

I'm sorry that we told you last week that this election was important. Somehow we thought that students might have a chance to get informed this year, to exercise their democratic right to be heard. We were wrong. There is nothing democratic about the SCSU elections. They're designed to keep you stupid about the candidates, the issues and this school. Mugabe would be proud...

Long live the Dictator for Life.

Sachin Hingoo
Associate Editor

RETRACTION

Every now and then (like every week), The Underground makes a mistake. Such was the case in our last issue, in which the article "The Laramie Project" was listed as being written by Keith Friedlander, when in fact it was written by Staff Writer Holly Cousineau. We sincerely apologize to Holly and the rest of you that were misled. We are currently taking appointments to be spanked.

Is The Plebiscite Plebian?

Or did I just word it that way so this headline sounds clever?

Sachin "Demented Democracy" Hingoo
Associate Editor

When you vote in the SCSU Elections this week, your opinions will also be gauged on the subject of UTSC's representation to the rest of the University of Toronto. The issue at hand is that all of the current SCSU Board of Directors are of the opinion that Scarborough Campus is underrepresented. Representing UTSC students to the rest of the school has hitherto been the jurisdiction of SAC Scarborough, but the SCSU's "One UTSC" plebiscite could effectively remove much, if not all of SAC's claim to speak for this campus. A resounding 'Yes' vote would make SCSU the "single, official voice" of UTSC students. It is a revolutionary move, and it is one that is supported by every single candidate for next year's Student Union (if only because they apparently found the plebiscite so uncontroversial that none of the candidates thought it was important enough to discuss at the elections forum last Thursday). I have to wonder, with so many of these aforementioned candidates claiming that they wish to represent the opinions of the students, what effect a 'No' vote on this plebiscite would mean to a council that has taken the expressed position of supporting it? It seems to me that what we have here is a choice that is no choice at all. To make matters worse, no one on the SCSU is talking about this plebiscite, almost as if they're depending on you, as a voter, to be uninformed about the issues surrounding it.

Much will weigh on this plebiscite, even though it's not binding, per se. A 'Yes' consensus could very well set the wheels in motion, so to speak, for Mr. Dan Bandurka, current SCSU Prez, to get his way, removing SAC's influence from UTSC altogether. And even if we have a 'No' vote, will Bandurka and the other SCSU members that support the 'One Voice Initiative' continue to do so? This editor says yes.

Since no one else seems willing to share any reasons why you *shouldn't* vote for this initiative, maybe I will. UTSC is already distanced from the St. George campus, both literally and figuratively. The sacking of SAC, the end result of the 'One Voice Initiative', will have the effect of distancing us even further, and removing all of the services that the SAC provides, such as the Health and Dental Plan. Even if these services are eventually taken over by SCSU, you probably won't see it happen unless you plan to do some serious failing, since setting up equivalent services would take a fair amount of time to implement. In addition, the aforementioned duties would be placed on the shoulders of an SCSU council that, for the first time, will also have the responsibility of dealing with issues surrounding the Student Centre, which in itself will be a Herculean task.

I don't want to give you the wrong idea. The plebiscite is not binding, and voting 'Yes' might tell SAC that you feel underrepresented, without necessarily having the effects that I just mentioned. However, Dan Bandurka's 'One Voice' campaign, if seen through to the end, will. If most of UTSC votes that SAC is undervaluing us as a campus and a student body, then the campaign will have significant ammo, and will continue. If, in fact, you value the services that SAC provides to you, such as the Health Plan, Legal Services or Psychiatric Services, then I hope that you'll consider these factors when you're voting in the plebiscite.

Now, It's not that I'm telling you to vote against Bandurka's plan, or how to vote at all. I just believe that if you're going to take the time to cast a vote, or express your opinion in any way, that it should be an informed one. This plebiscite (and the election in general) has been set up so that you, the voters, are barely capable of doing that. I believe that both sides of an issue should always be present when it is being decided upon, and it's not like the 'No' side of this extremely important issue hasn't been expressed enough. Quite simply, it hasn't been expressed at all.

A POSTSCRIPT ON CORRUPTION

In a move that I can only assume is a reaction to the allegation (and aggressive questioning by the Underground) that SCSU has been keeping its voters in the dark, a last-minute Town Hall meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 4 regarding questions about the plebiscite. I sincerely hope that you attended and asked the questions that you wanted to ask, assuming that you even heard about it, which I doubt. It was impossible for the Underground to cover this meeting, since we run print on Mondays, and you wouldn't have seen this issue until Wednesday at the earliest. This is a fact that Dan Bandurka and the rest of the SCSU are aware of, and the fact that this meeting was scheduled so late in the election period is shady at best. This is, in this editor's opinion, the least media-friendly election in the history of the world. I would also like to take this time to apologize for taking such a hard stance (last week) against those who choose not to vote in these elections. With only the sketchiest information on the candidates and the issues, I just may not vote myself.

"India has been denying the Kashmiris their right of self determination and thereby violating the UN resolutions that called for plebiscite in the Valley".

- (1998) Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan

What's a debate?

Saddam Hussein requests an open debate with George Bush. Minutes after receiving word of the invitation, the White House dismisses it as insincere. What does Mr. Bush have to fear about dialogue with Mr. Hussein? If indeed the reasons and motivations for attacking Iraq are justifiable, would not discussion just strengthen the American position? What if Mr. Hussein is not the power-hungry, malicious dictator that he is made out to be? What if the so-called liberation that Bush promised in a speech heard earlier on the evening of the 60 Minutes interview is really a façade meant to somehow cover up the hidden economic motivations that rise from the turmoil rearing its ugly head on the American home front? The whole thing wreaks of scandal.. Osama Bin Laden, the terrorist that the United States - under the leadership of George Bush Sr. - trained and positioned, attacked on September 11. Since then, the American propaganda machine has been running full tilt, pumping out pieces of evidence to fuel the need for revenge and the "War on Terror". Somehow, Mr. Hussein and Iraq have been connected - yet even the American propaganda machine cannot produce any conclusive evidence indicating that Mr. Hussein or the organized government of Iraq has in any way instigated an attack on the USA. It seems that Osama is still working for the Junior Bush administration as he did for the Senior.

Strange how the timing of the September 11 attack was perfect for skyrocketing George Junior's public support ratings higher than any other American president's. And strange how it all seems to now culminate on a renewed attack on Iraq, a fight George Senior was never able to win. All of this is just speculation, but Mr. Hussein is right in one thing - conversation is civil. President Bush, unless you have something to hide, please at least make an attempt to solve the issues you have through civilized discussion. In the end, war is terror..

Jussi Maattanen

Fo' shame, *Underground*! Them washrooms is nasty!

(Re: Where To Pee On Campus, Vol. 22 Issue 19)

Does anyone at your newspaper do a thorough job when investigating a story??? I guess not! I was shocked and appalled by the "expose" done on the washrooms at UTSC. In my opinion (and I am sure others at the university), the girls washrooms are below standards. The toilets are always spotty, they spray two feet when they are flushed and the sinks are even more filthy. When I saw that The Underground had done a story on the washrooms - I was relieved. I thought, "finally, something will be done about the deplorable, horrendous and down right icky holes, we call washrooms". But instead, you commended them on a horrible job of keeping our washrooms sanitary. Due to your oversight, the conditions will never improve. You are cowards for not telling the whole truth! Who got to you? Who paid you off? How does it feel to let down your whole school?

D. Sgusted

Editor's Note: I see that you're on to us... We don't do any research at all.

letters letters

Take That UTSC "Big Wigs!"

(Re: Letter from last issue...)

I should first say that I am not a UTSC student - nor a student in any post secondary edumacational school. I am, however, a graduate of the journalism program at Centennial College.

I picked up a copy of the Underground while at UTSC to watch a play. I read, with interest, the article about the pairing of Centennial and UTSC. I was on the CCSAI (Centennial College Student Association Inc.) when the decision was made to join the two programs in the applied degree designation.

I was against it from the start - not because of the reasons that were brought up, but because of Centennial's lack of a good journalism course.

I would like to point out that the "higher ups" that wrote the letter in the February 26th edition need a little training in spell checking and sentence structure themselves.

Most notable is the error is Ted Barris' name. (Not a Borris, although sometimes he was quite boring.)

I would also like to point out that the "impressive" list of graduates from Centennial doesn't quite hold the true story.

I won't pick on any of my fellow journalism mates, but I'll just say this - our class started in the mid 50 student range first semester, first year. At graduation, there were nine of us that had met the graduating criteria.

Oh - I should mention that at Centennial, the two year fast track class is joined with the three year class in second semester, second year. Of the three year class, (where 50-odd started), there are less than 10 working in the journalism field.

Why do I think that the joining isn't the greatest thing in the world? Well, first off, as the Underground noted, these students will be paying University tuition, which is a silly amount of money to be paying in the first place. Of course, there is also the fact that it is for journalism - one of the industry fields that is shrinking as we speak. (Thank you .com revolution)

It was stated in the letter from the big wigs that "UTSC and Centennial is committed to providing an excellent experience to students in their joint programs."

Frankly, I believe, as a graduate of Centennial's course, who is not working in the field, that they would first need to be committed to providing an excellent experience for students in their non joint program before trying to do so jointly with someone else.

Sincerely,
Rob Brown

Editor's Note: Thanks for your letter Rob. The Underground also remains skeptical of UTSC's joint-programmes, even given the poor research our reporters conducted... But, we should clarify: Apologies to the original letter writers, Wayne Dowler and Sue Horton, as their letter (sent to The Underground as a hard-copy) was transcirbed by a bleary-eyed Editor-in-Chief at around 3 a.m. The "Barris" typo (and those nasty grammatical errors) most likely originated there. The EIC is not, and has never been, much for grammar or typing.

mailto: undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca
subject: letters

For your information!

The ***Scarborough Campus Students' Union*** held a referendum on having the SCSU membership fee adjusted annual by the inflationary cost of living as determined by the consumer price index. The vote took place on October 8 & 9, in the Meeting Place. 67% of those students who voted, voted in favour.

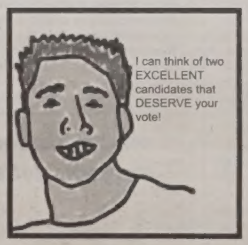
For more information about the results of the referendum or the timing of this advertisement, please contact SCSU in room B-330 or at 416-287-7047.

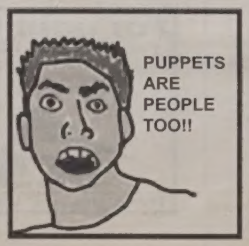
SCSU.ca

The Students' Voice for Students' Needs

opinion

42 million infected
20 million dead
there's more...
AIDS
Awareness UTSC
Meeting Place: March 10, 11, 12
Local and International AIDS organizations, research, photography, exhibits, contests, movies, giveaways, free food..
Speaker Night: March 12, 6pm
"Deconstructing AIDS" Featuring:
World Vision, AIDS Committee of Toronto, Voices of Positive Women & Polaris Research
Location: Council Chamber, S-402
Art for AIDS: March 13, 5pm
Spoken word, visual arts, music, dance, food
Location: Student Village Centre





Arabs:
The Escape Clause

Faheem Merchant

Why can a nun be covered from head to toe and she's respected for devoting herself to God, but when a Muslim does that, she's "oppressed"? Why can a Jew grow a beard and he's just practicing his faith, and when a Muslim does that, he's an extremist? Why is it that when a child dedicates himself to a school subject, he has potential, and when a child dedicates himself to Islam, he is hopeless? When a Christian kills someone, religion is not mentioned (i.e. IRA), but when a Muslim is charged with a crime, it's Islam that goes to trial?

Shortly after the Oklahoma bombing, analysts in the media said the timing of the attack was similar to past bombings linked to Muslims, such as the 1993 World Trade Center attack in New York City. "The signature looks Middle Eastern," noted many American newspapers. Experts discounted American radical groups, according to Time Magazine because "few, if any, U.S. groups have the skills used in this bombing, and the car bomb is a signature weapon of several Islamic groups but no known American ones". An apology to the Muslims was never offered.

So now, who do you blame? People tend to think that if a Middle Eastern person is involved, we should target the Middle East, but now that it's an American and not an Arab, just whom do you point the finger at? Arabs tend, therefore, to be the scapegoat. It seems as if prejudice and discrimination are the basis of any F.B.I. or C.I.A. investigation.

We don't consider that the killing of 19 innocent students, injuring numerous others, and traumatizing a nation to be an act of terrorism in the Columbine shooting, The Air India bombing, Unabomber, the Montreal massacre and many such attacks were not given the intense scrutiny and assessment with the media's religion expert, like the WTC bombing.

Someone has to be blamed, and governments probably consider the ones with the smallest mouths to be those easy targets. Bush said, "we will target all terrorists of global reach", which means that Al-Qaeda, Hizbullah, and Al-Jihad, are fair game but the IRA is not. Solely targeting Muslims is discrimination, and therein denying life without reasonable doubt isn't just cause. Arabs and Muslims were also killed in the WTC bombing, adding insult to injury would be to blame Muslims that lost family in the twin towers. Why degrade Islam by calling the Taliban, Islamic fundamentalists or Muslim terrorists. When was the last time you read an article about the IRA referring to them as Catholic extremists? If this religion is so bad, why is it that after all this furor, Islam is still the fastest growing religion in the world?

word of the week!

plebiscite

plebiscite */ n.*
1 *the direct vote of all electors on an important public question, e.g. a change in the constitution.*
2 *the public expression of a community's opinion, with or without binding force.*

The News In Brief...

New Award for Creative Writing...

UTSC now has it's own creative writing contest, with an award going out to each a short fiction piece as well as a poetry piece. The due date for submissions is April 1st, with awards being announced in early May.

Short fiction pieces are to be no more than 3,000 words, and poetry pieces no more than 1,000 words. Submit all entries to Kristen Guest in Bladen Library room 202, including a cover sheet with your name, the name of the piece you have entered, and an email contact.

Volunteer Weapons Inspectors Turned Away – US Renegade State?

February 23-A group of volunteer weapons inspectors, including the University of Toronto's Professor Emeritus Mel Watkins as well as members of both Canadian and British Parliament, traveled to the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center in Maryland to do their own weapons inspections of the United States. As had been anticipated they were denied entry past the main gates of the facility.

The action did, nonetheless, draw much media attention. Rooting Out Evil, the group responsible for organizing the inspections, knew the team would be refused entry, but went on with the show as a statement. According to Rooting Out Evil the U.S. is their number one priority nation to be inspected, as they use the same criteria as the Bush administration to label a nation as dangerous. The nation must:

1) have massive stockpiles of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons;
2) ignore due process at the United Nations;
3) refuse to sign and honor international treaties; and
4) have come to power through illegitimate means.

According to the activist group the U.S. meets all these criteria.

Rooting Out Evil wrote a letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in advance of the visit, requesting full cooperation, and outlining the reasons for selecting the Edgewood facility. In the letter the group asserts that they have conducted research that suggests that the Edgewood facility is holding and developing weapons of mass destruction which run contrary to the Chemical Weapons Convention; the U.S. was a State Party to this convention, which entered into force in 1997. The Edgewood facility is labeled as being a biological defense research and development center, but Rooting Out Evil feels that the center is being used for more than just defense, but also assault.

WISC Washed Up

Due to a failure to meet the constitutional requirements in electing an executive for the West Indian Student's Club (WISC), the club is now defunct. Students wishing to receive a refund of their member's fees may do so in room B320. Any student wishing to start a new association, however, is encouraged to do so by contacting Renata from Student Affairs at renata@utsc.utoronto.ca, or by calling 416.287.7674.

Waste Some Water This Enviro-Week

Students are being asked to waste some water in order to ensure that they don't drink any loose materials that will be flowing through the water fountains. Due to construction, and an attempt to integrate the ARC's water system with the existing water lines in the Bladen Wing and Athletic Center, the water fountains in those two areas may be expelling some materials that have built up in the pipelines. In working with the piping systems the built-up materials are likely to come loose, and flow through the fountains. It is asked that you run the water for a few moments, making sure that the water is clear and safe before drinking. The problem will also be affecting showers and faucets, but only in the two areas of the school mentioned above. Tests will be conducted on the water supply and students will be notified of the results when they come in.

Environment Week kicked off Monday with free peanut butter cookies. Booths were set up in the meeting place, providing information regarding many environmental concerns. Groups such as The Wildlands League, Friends of the Rouge Watershed, Ontario Streams, and The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation were represented. Students are being encouraged to volunteer with these organizations, getting involved in activities such as tree planting over the summer.

Second Nature, UTSC's environment group, is putting on the week's activities here in Scarborough, but it's all being promoted by SAC, and all three UofT campuses are holding Environment Week simultaneously in conjunction with one another.

The University of Toronto Environmental Resource Network (UTERN) is also using the week as an opportunity to increase awareness of an upcoming vote. Students are being asked to login to their ROSI accounts on March 12-14, to vote on a fifty-cent refundable non-academic fee for all graduate and undergraduate students. The money accumulated by the levy will be available for student groups at UofT to access, if needed, to fund environmental projects. The fee is refundable however, meaning that the levy will be tacked onto tuition fees, but if a student decides that he or she does not wish for UTERN to have their fifty-cents then the student can get their fifty-cents back.

Environment Week is also host to a few special lectures and panel discussions, with talks concerning genetically modified foods, global warming, and environmental economics. More on these events can be found in next week's issue.

STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

Info Session

Wednesday, March 12, 2003
1pm - 3pm
Council Chamber, Rm S403

Info Booth - Main cafeteria
11am - 3pm

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NDP education critic: Ontario still short-changing students

Eves ups apprenticeship funding

Chris Wilson-Smith
CUP Ontario Bureau
Published: Fri-28-Feb-2003

TORONTO (CUP) -- Ontario NDP Education Critic Rosario Marchese believes the Progressive Conservative government's recently boosted apprenticeship fund still leaves "hard-working students short-changed."

Premier Ernie Eves announced on Thursday his government will double its Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund commitment to $10 million. Enough, according to Eves, to provide community colleges with new computers, machinery, and even computerized ovens.

"By expanding community college training facilities and doubling the number of students entering our apprenticeship programs, we will be better prepared to face the challenges [of a rapidly changing environment] right on," said Eves.

On the same day as the PC announcement, the NDP unveiled School2Work, a funding formula geared towards cutting the high school dropout rate and "steering more school students into rewarding careers."

Marchese said he was disappointed with the weakness of the AEF plan when the Ontario Liberals first devised it in 2001.

"And I"m still disappointed now," he added.

The NDP would see $15 million go to doubling the number of regulated apprenticeships, as well as making more "hands-on and technical" programs available at high schools.

Marchese pointed to recent government statistics which show that close to 80 per cent of Ontario high school students do not go on to university or college.

"So many students require more options after high school," said the MPP for Trinity-Spadina. "If they had more specialized training at their local schools, they would be better prepared to enter into college."

Marchese said he would also like to see an agency set up to facilitate credit transfers between community colleges and universities.

"Right now, transferring credits is done on a strictly voluntary basis," he said. "There needs to be a more concrete way for students to move up, and not be setback by Conservative cutbacks."

Dianne Moldaver, director of Fleming Training Services — which operates under the Sir Sanford Fleming University umbrella — was pleased with the announcement.

"Today"s investment will enhance our curriculum and we appreciate it very much," said Moldaver.

"As apprenticeship training becomes more technologically advanced, our students will benefit from having the most up-to-date equipment and facilities," she continued.

But Centennial College President Richard Johnston told the Scarborough Chamber of Commerce -- the day prior to the government announcement -- that Conservative funding for colleges falls short on a larger scale.

The percentage of jobs that are available to high school "leavers" has dropped steadily over the past thirty years, according to Johnston, and by all projections will continue to do so.

"However, a majority of those who enter high school do not go on to post-secondary and if they do go on later, it is generally to college," said Johnston.

"Our society and our governments cannot afford to have this trend continue," he added.

What's a plebiscite?

Chris McKinnon
Editor-in-Chief

The posters are everywhere in UTSC's hallways. The words are bold and clear: One UTSC. Our University, Our Campus, Our Voice.

Over the past week and a half the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU) has mounted a huge campaign for the One UTSC plebiscite. But wait a minute... What's a plebiscite?

> plebiscite / *n.* **1** the direct vote of all electors on an important public question, e.g. a change in the constitution. **2** the public expression of a community's opinion, with or without binding force. (OCD)

In the case of the plebiscite in question, we're looking at definition number two. SCSU is asking the students of UTSC a fairly straight-forward question: **Are you in favour of consolidating all UTSC undergraduate student representation by designating the Scarborough Campus Students' Union as the single, official UTSC student voice at the University of Toronto?**

Despite rumours to the contrary, SCSU President, Dan Bandurka, maintains that the purpose of the One UTSC plebiscite "is not to oust SAC," but rather to make SAC and SCSU equivalent representatives of UTSC students.

Bandurka asserts that, fundamentally, the plebiscite question addresses a general lack of representation of UTSC students withing the broader University of Toronto community. "Right now, there is no UTSC-based university-wide representation. Student voice on this campus often gets forgotten within the larger University of Toronto picture..." says Bandurka.

"It has been a struggle for UTSC issues to be addressed effectively by SAC," states Karim Bhanji, Vice-President Academics of SCSU in a press release. Bandurka would agree: "[A] St. George issue will, nine times out of ten, take precedence . . . Issues at UTSC do matter. They should not be left aside."

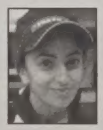
Members of the Students' Administrative Council, Scarborough, did not respond to queries before press time.

While a "Yes" vote would not necessarily be binding in any way, SCSU believes that it would put the union in a more favourable position when dealing with University of Toronto's Governing Council. Bandurka believes that if SCSU had official recognition as "the voice of UTSC students" vis a vis Governing Council, it might have been better able to put pressure on the university to retain a full-service library at UTSC during the construction of the Academic Resource Centre. Previously, the university's administration had intended to close the V.W. Bladen Library for the 2002-2003 school year. The library is currently operating with a reduced collection and significantly less study space. The library's administration falls under the jurisdiction of UTSC's Associate Principal of Academic Resources, Robert Campbell. Campbell's office can be contacted by telephone at 416-287-7498 and by email at rcampbell@utsc.utoronto.ca . Campbell need not be contacted through the U of T's Governing Council. In fact, he's reportedly pretty approachable.

As of the time of printing there has been no visible opposition to SCSU's "Yes" campaign. The lack of a "No" campaign is a troubling thing to UTSC students. Without the real opposition to the SCSU's stance necessary to create some debate about the issue, it will be exceedingly difficult to make an informed decision.

Tim James and Veronica Barton
Can you tell us what a plebiscite is?
We've seen the word, but we're not really sure what it means.

Are you planning to vote in the SCSU elections or the plebiscite?
No.



Nicole Mansey
Do you know what a plebiscite is?
No.

Are you planning to vote in the SCSU elections this week?
Yes.

Ameena Hassan
Can you tell us what a plebiscite is?
Yes. It's a vote based on information that has been presented to students, [the outcome of which] will reflect their opinions.

Do you think that a plebiscite was the best way for SCSU to gauge public opinion on the issue of representation of students at UTSC?
No. More information needs to go out to students and a longer timeline is needed to [properly] discuss and understand the issues.

Are you voting in the elections this week?
Yes.

The CSCR Crew
Do you know what a plebiscite is?
It's like a referendum or an opinion poll, but it doesn't have any power.

Do you think the plebiscite was a good way to inform people and gather their opinions?
Yes, the plebiscite is more official [than an opinion poll]. More people might vote if they thought it would help kick SAC off campus...

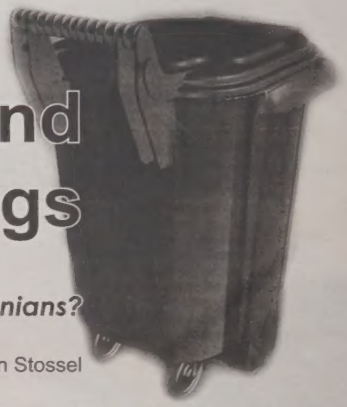
Eric Beers
Do you know what a plebiscite is?
Not really.

Why do you think SCSU is conducting this plebiscite?
To show SAC that we're pissed off about how they don't represent us...

The Bust A Move arcade game
Can you tell us what a plebiscite is?
Insert Coin. Insert Coin.

Huh?
Insert Coin. Winners Don't Use Drugs. Insert Coin.

Green Bins and Yellow Bags



The "new deal" for Torontonians?

Quentin Stossel

Toronto's widely used Keele Valley landfill site closed at the end of 2002, and finding a location for a new one has proven to be quite troublesome. Since the closure of Keele Valley, waste disposal costs increased from $12 / tonne to roughly $ 50 / tonne (> 300%) as a result of having to truck our garbage down to private landfill sites in Michigan. Back in 2001, the City of Toronto established a Waste Diversion Task Force to design a "made in Toronto" solution for our garbage problem. The objective is to redirect significant portions of our garbage away from Michigan landfills and into areas where they can be reused right here in Toronto. By recognizing the large potential that is contained our garbage, waste diversion will help bring Toronto closer to being a more efficient city by 2010.

Green Bins

The Green Bin Program is the next step in household waste reduction for the City of Toronto, and has already begun in Etobicoke. Once implemented across the city, it will allow Torontonians to put organic waste (fruit and vegetables scraps, paper towels, coffee grinds, etc.) out for pick-up along with their garbage and recycling.

Organic material that would hitherto have ended up in your garbage can now be placed in the Green Bins for pick-up along with your recycling and garbage. About one third of our garbage consists of such organic material. The Green Bin Program ensures that these organic materials are kept out of Michigan landfills. Instead, they are turned into compost that will be put to use right here in Toronto on farmlands and in parks - a truly internal solution to 30% of our garbage problem.

Etobicoke was chosen to pilot the Green Bin Program, as its neighborhoods are similar to those across the rest of Toronto. Naturally, there were some initial problems that needed to be overcome (i.e. using the green bins correctly, or using them at all), but the program has since become a huge success in Etobicoke. By now, more than 90% of the almost 70,000 homes in Etobicoke are endorsing the usage Green Bins. The result: around 180 tonnes/week (9 truckloads) of organics are kept out of landfills and instead are available for re-usage on farmlands, parks, and flowerbeds after a relatively short period of time.

Yellow Bags

The Yellow Bag Program, which started last September, encourages small, local businesses to reduce their garbage destined for landfills, by increasing recycling and organics collection. Businesses that get their garbage picked up by the City now use special Yellow Bags at a cost of $3.10 each. This fee covers collection and disposal of their garbage. Recycling and organics, however, are collected free of charge, allowing commercial customers to significantly cut their costs if they play ball. The economics of the Yellow Bag Program make it win-win situation for both small business owners and the City of Toronto. Businesses can cut their garbage costs, and the City can save funds by diverting garbage from Michigan landfills.

Over 1400 businesses have organic carts, which makes this the largest program of its kind in North America (go Toronto!). As a result, roughly 200 tonnes/week (10 truckloads) of organics are diverted from landfills and there has been a 20 - 30 % increase in recycling. Overall, garbage production has been reduced significantly.

Toronto produces about 17,500 tonnes/week (875 truckloads) of garbage. With the new Green Bin Organics Program in place in Etobicoke and the Yellow Bag Program targeting small businesses, about 2% of Toronto's garbage (organics) is currently being kept out of Michigan landfills. One can only imagine the possibilities once the system is employed across the entire city, and other residential communities start participating.

The Green Wizard Program - a new deal for UTSC Rez?

The Green Wizard Program was launched by Residence Advisor/Green Wizard Paul Williamson as part of a joint 2nd Nature/Residence Advisor effort to increase Green Bin usage on campus residence. Several volunteers meet on a weekly basis and go from door to door collecting each house's organic material. These are then placed in storage bins on the residence grounds and mixed with fibrous material such as leaves. As time goes by, the contents of the storage bins are converted into compost, which can then be used right here on our campus in vegetable and flower gardens.

Similar to Etobicoke, the Green Wizard Program took some time to catch on with the Rez students. By now there are quite a number of houses in Phases 1 and 2 that are participating by making their organic waste available for weekly pick-up. The program will soon commence in Phase 3 as well.

What goes in a Green Bin?

Paper plates, cups
Soiled paper towels, napkins, tissues
Soiled paper food packaging - i.e. microwave popcorn bags, ice cream boxes, frozen food packages
Butcher paper
Fast food paper
All fruits and vegetables
Meat and fish products (shell fish, bones, skins, fat)
Oils and fats, bacon grease, lard
Pasta, bread and cereal
Dairy products, cheese, egg shells
Coffee grinds and filters, tea bags
Candy (paper wrappers ok, but no foil/plastic wrappers)
Flowers and dried flowers
Baking goods, herbs & spices
Diapers, incontinent pads, sanitary products
Household plants, including soil
Kitty litter and dog feces
Animal bedding from bird/hamster cages

You can also use your organic waste to make compost for your own garden, rather than donating it to the City. But there are several items that you should NOT compost (listed in italics) due to their slow breakdown process and ability to attract pests. These items are part of the Green Bin Program because the City's composting facilities accelerate the breakdown of organics.

For more information about the Green Bin Program: www.city.toronto.on.ca/greenbin
For more information on how to compost on your own: www.city.toronto.on.ca/compost
For the Waste Diversion Task Force Report: http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/taskforce2010/report.pdf

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30th Annual Canadian Autoshow

Leading By Design

Mario Kangeswaren
Online Editor

left to right: GM Aveo, GM Epica, Mazda Hideout, Mercedes CL320

This year the Canadian International Autoshow (CIAS) celebrated its 30th anniversary. The 10-day annual car fest, is held from Feb 15 - 24 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre and SkyDome. The theme for this year's show is "*Leading by design*".

Dubbed the "world's largest showroom", the event featured some of the best cars in automotive technology to date. Over 42 new models made their debuts, including the Mini Cooper, VW Passat, Mazda Rx-8, BMW's 7 Series luxury sedan, and the Mercedes Benz 500 SL Roadster. But not only do event goers get to see these great cars, the best part is that they are also allowed to get inside most of them.

Mazada in particular unleashed 9 new highly anticipated concept cars including the 'Secret Hideout' and 'MX Sport', which this writer had the opportunity to evaluate for market research purposes. Particularly the 'RX-8: X-men car', the model used in the upcoming X-Men sequel (coming to theatres May 2, 2003), is a car not to miss out on. It's unique Mutant Blue exterior and an X shaped grill made it standout amongst Mazda's unique brand of cars.

Additional standout concepts included the Ford Tonka, Mazda Washu, and Toyota FXS. Hundai's Clix (Fun Activity Vehicle concept) made its North American debut and featured a unique space-age design. Interestingly, virtually all these concepts did not address major issues, especially fuel efficiency, rather they addressed future design considerations and performance capabilities.

With rapidly increasing gas prices, the issue pertaining to fuel consumption will be key to the success of gasoline based vehicles in the near, if not immediate future. The failure to address such an issue in the design of future cars at this event is probably due to the nature of the show, which tends to focus primarily on two key areas, as mentioned previously, 'design' and 'performance'; not there's anything wrong with these two aspects. Notably, GM's AUTOnomy, a concept prototype, provides some hope regarding the use of alternate fuels, as the car derives its energy from hydrogen power.

In summary, I found this year's autoshow more appealing than those of the previous two years, but then again every year is better then the last. In terms of automotive design, the industry clearly appears to be heading in the right direction, with vehicles being produced for all types of drivers and with their unique tastes.

If you missed out on the autoshow or simply want to look at some marvels of automotive technology simply go to www.autoshow.ca .

Suzuki GSX-R4 (concept car)

arts

Russian Ark
impossible to review, possible to see!

Sarah Barmak

Before I start reviewing Aleksandr Sokurov's new film, I'd like to warn you about two things. Firstly, its audience. Since this is an art movie, playing at the Cinematheque, its audience was predictably old, artsy, and pretentious. When I took out the remains of my lunch in the theatre, the old man sitting next to me told me that I wasn't supposed to be eating. I thanked him for telling me and put it away, and then heard him complain to his friend about the non-regulars that some more popular films attract to the theatre. "The ones at the Kurosawa programs are the worst," he bitched. This didn't really ruin the movie for me - actually it sort of enhanced it - but it could have for someone else.

The second point is about the film. This movie is like all of Sokurov's movies, in that it's essentially an idea fleshed out in movie form. So I'm kind of worried I'll ruin the fun of watching it. Once you know where the film is going, seeing it might resemble an academic exercise. If you approach it without much foreknowledge, however, the concepts unfold in a wondrously breathtaking way. I know I'm a nerd, but I felt like a kid watching Peter Pan when I watched this movie. I warn you: if you're actually planning on seeing it, stop reading now.

Russian Ark is about that strange thing, history. You think you understand history, since it's over and all the people involved are dead and buried in the pages of some high school textbook. Old men with multiple degrees can argue the finer points of Napoleon's motivations for invading this or that small country (megalomania or hemorrhoids?), but in the end, who really thinks those things can affect us in the here and now?

But the idea that history doesn't just exist in the past, but is constantly with us and is a part of us, is something that makes a lot of sense to Russian filmmaker Sokurov. In his movie, *Russian Ark*, the characters in it are literally living in history, despite the fact they may be from the present day. There is no science fiction involved in this, no explanation to do with a time machine. This is because for Sokurov, all periods and moments exist at the same time.

The main character, the narrator (played by Sokurov), has just found himself transported to the eighteenth century as the film opens from a blackout, and slowly reveals howling snow and a group of lavishly dressed nobles. In one sumptuous, unedited take, the camera pans through the rarely-filmed Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, bringing us through its entire history from Catherine the Great to the siege of Leningrad in 1941-1944 to the twenty-first century.

Accompanied by the criticisms and sometimes offensive comments of an eighteenth-century French diplomat, the Marquis de Custine, we view Sokurov's army of meticulously costumed extras, as well as dozens of paintings that show us Russia's peculiar fetish for the West. At the forefront is its inability to either absorb Western culture completely or to distinguish itself from it.

Russian Ark is the best kind of arthouse film, because it expands your idea of what a film can do and puts pure dazzling astonishment back into moviegoing, like when you saw Transformers for the first time, except now you're a jaded semiotics student and you want something "challenging." I'd be worried that line wouldn't work, except that since you listened you're not reading this anyway….right? Right.

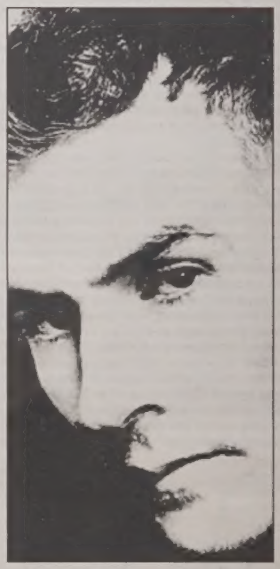
reviews

Riding the Special Bus

Massive Attack returns... sort of.

Andrew C. Epstein
Staff Writer

Title: *100th Window*
Band: **Massive Attack**
Producer: Virgin Records
Rating: ★★★☆☆



With their three previous releases, *Blue Lines*, *Protection*, and *Mezzanine*, the Bristol collective known as Massive Attack became the fathers of trip-hop. In their wake they allowed acts like Portishead and Morcheeba to take the stage as legitimate musical contenders. But the darkness of their masterpiece *Mezzanine* fractured the band and the trio is now down to one, namely Robert "3-D" Del Naja, and with him comes the new Massive Attack record *100th Window*.

Comprised of nine tracks, this record cements Massive Attack as the founders of trip-hop, but makes no real effort to expand the genre. The album has everything you'd expect from a Massive Attack record. The sounds are moody and surreal, while the chosen vocalists create an emotional and soulful environment. While all of the songs are quite enjoyable, few actually stand out on their own as it seems that you've heard them all before. 3-D and reggae singing sensation Horace Andy (who has appeared on all previous Massive Attack releases) contribute excellent vocals, and yet fail to match any of the intensity of Massive's prior efforts.

The real reason to listen to this album comes from the three tracks featuring vocal and lyrical contribution from the almighty anti-pope songstress, Sinead O'Conner. Her haunting tone reverberates through "What Your Soul Sings", the single "Special Cases", and "A Prayer For England". It seems that 3-D and O'Conner bring out the best in each other as these three songs also provide some of the most intriguing and intense musical moments on the record. O'Conner sings more gracefully and sincerely than on any of her solo releases, while her lyrical styling proves to be quite intriguing, like the message of sexual equality presented in "Special Cases".

However, the same cannot be said for Horace Andy who, in past releases, slew the listener with his fragile and beautiful vocals. On this release, Andy seems a bit bored or perhaps tired in his delivery. I highly doubt that more intriguing music would have inspired more intriguing vocals.

It seems that this is a transitional stage for 3-D, however, for an album full of growing pains *100th Window* comes across quite well. As a whole, the record is wonderfully melodic, and is really made for listening all the way through. It will, however, likely appeal only to someone who already has at least one Massive Attack album. As the main songwriter, 3-D will now have to take Massive to a new place that no one expects, as this simply seems like *Mezzanine*'s slightly less talented sibling. But that doesn't mean that you don't want to pay attention to it.

So here's hoping that more collaborations between 3-D and O'Conner lie in the future, as it is that collaboration that will fuel the creative fires for Massive Attack. Until then, Massive fans will be satisfied with this stop gap album, but not for long. The final verdict: good, but certainly not great.

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The Message At The Depth

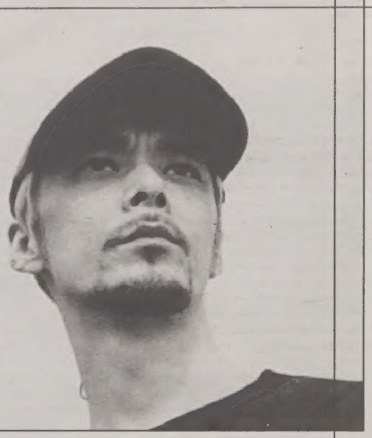
DJ Krush at The Opera House (Feb. 28)

Sachin Hingoo
Associate Editor

A liquid bass line pours out of the right deck, filling the room from the ground up as a deadly ninja beat emerges from the left. A traditional Japanese flute plays a melody somewhere behind you, as the sound of rushing water flows from above.

Such is the sensory experience of Krush, whether recorded or like last Friday, in a live environment. Not content to spin average melodies, this Japanese phenomenon wrecked the decks and wowed the crowd with samples that rippled, flowed, and both cut through and embraced the ambient sounds in the Opera House that night. It was something to be seen and felt, as well as heard, in order to be fully experienced.

Krush's following here in Canada is much greater than I thought, given the packed house for his first concert here since…well, ever. I probably shouldn't be surprised, though. He's done tracks with the Roots, DJ Shadow, Mos Def, and Toronto's own Esthero, just to name a few, and has built quite a fan base despite the often chaotic, dissonant sounds in his music. Krush isn't exactly that 'crowd-pleaser DJ', you know, the one that'll drop some Biz Markie or (ugh) Nelly just to pop a crowd. Rather, he has his own sense of direction, and will get there at any cost. What other DJ would have the balls to spin Japanese hip-hop to a crowd that likely couldn't even guess at the words? And what other DJ would get that same crowd dancing to it? Not many, to be sure, but Krush lives up to his reputation, getting the crowd moving to things like bird noises and weird samples whose origins you don't have any hope of recognizing. While abstract, his prowess on the turntables is awesome, placing layer upon layer of sound on top of the beat, allowing the listener to follow five or six melodic parts at once, like musical multitasking. Krush's set opened the minds of the audience to a new kind of hip-hop sound, proving that there really is some depth to his message.



weekly haiku
by sachin hingoo

Eminem, you're wrong.
If I only had one shot,
I would just KILL YOU.

call for nominations

COUNCIL of the UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO at SCARBOROUGH and PLANNING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE 2003 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Nominations are invited for candidates to fill undergraduate student vacancies on Council of the University of Toronto at Scarborough and Planning and Budget Committee

for the 2003/2004 session

COUNCIL of the UNIVERSITY of TORONTO at SCARBOROUGH
Undergraduate students: 16 vacancies

PLANNING & BUDGET COMMITTEE
Undergraduate students: 2 vacancies

For the purpose of the elections, undergraduate students are defined as those students registered at the University of Toronto at Scarborough in at least one half-course in the Fall/Winter Session or who are registered in a co-operative program.

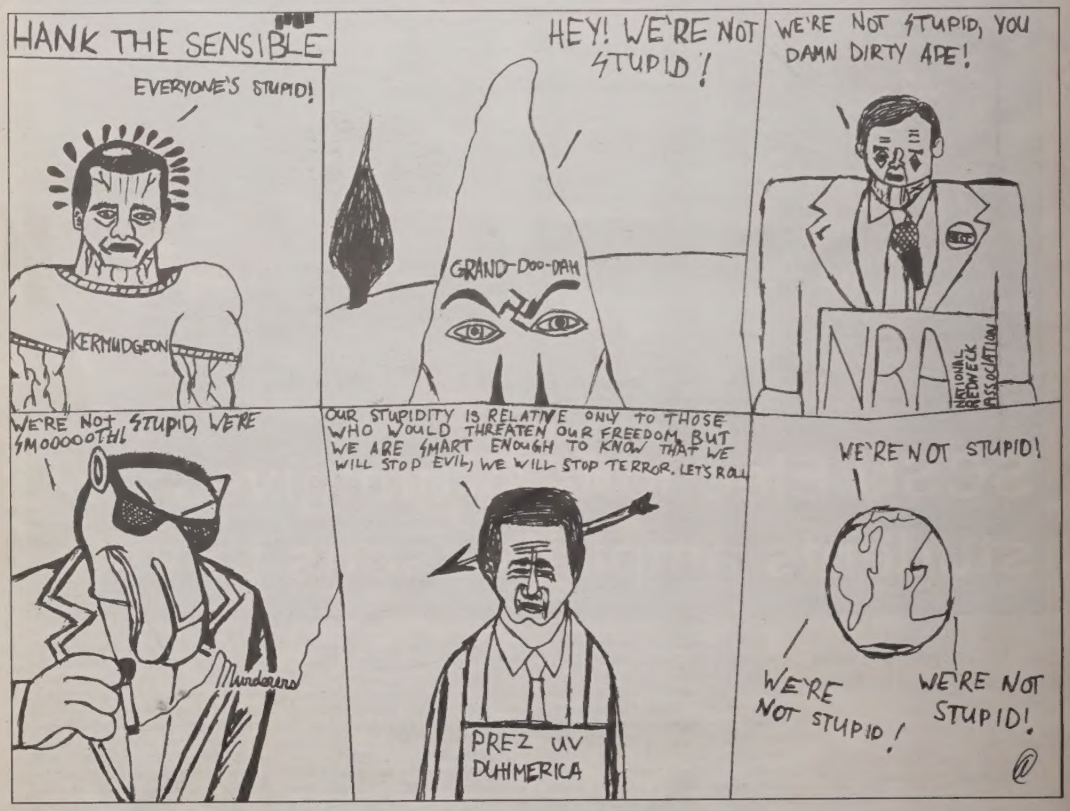
Nominations close March 10, 2003

Election information is available from room S406 and the SCSU Office (B330).

groundworks

groundworks

Andrew Epstein (TLOD)



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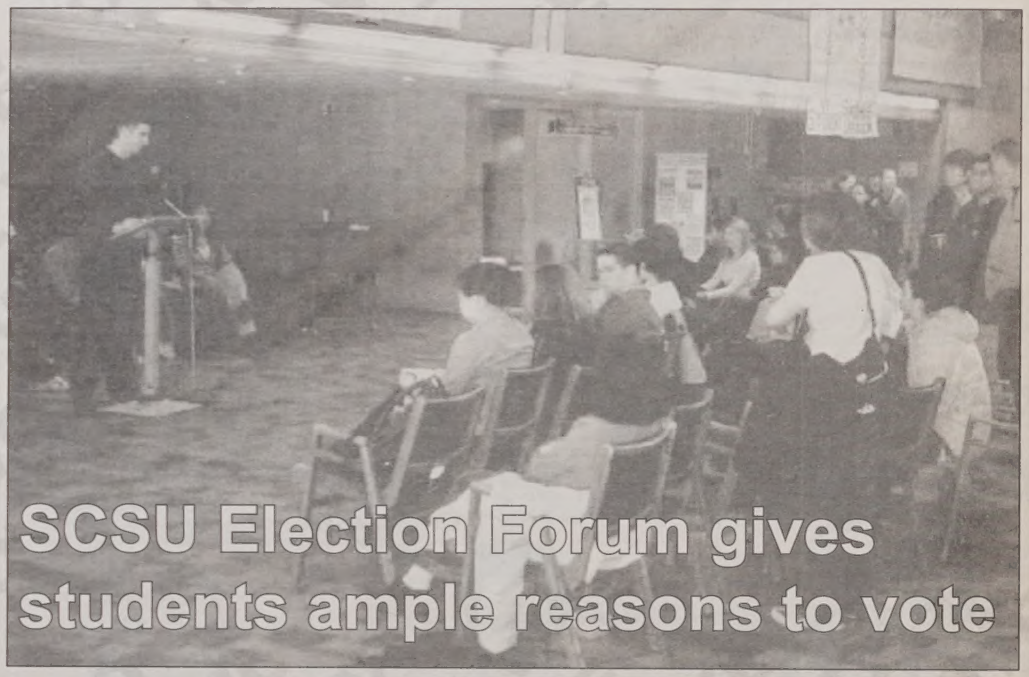


SCSU Election Forum gives students ample reasons to vote

Christian Lucier
Life Editor

Last Thursday in the Meeting Place, the Scarborough Campus Student Union (SCSU) candidates came out in full force. A very interesting and informative forum was held, where the candidates for each category were given a chance to step up to the podium and present their campaigns. Some of the more popular issues discussed concerned graffiti, study space, and the dreaded double cohort. After attending the forum, I can safely say that this year's SCSU election race looks promising.

The candidates running for President this year are; Dan Bandurka, Brad Meisner, Scott Tremblay, and Carrie Shultz. For those of you living under a rock, Dan Bandurka is the current President of SCSU. If there is one thing to note about Dan, it is that he is confident, and perhaps even too confident at times. He does, however, present some good points. During his time at the podium, Bandurka addressed the need for an equity office and displayed a strong concern for the hurtful and offensive graffiti found around campus. Bandurka also talked about some of the fallbacks SCSU had this year. In particular, he mentioned how club funding could have been handled better. Brad Meisner took to the podium after Dan. In his speech, he began by mentioning a dire need for communication between students and the SCSU, because "there has been no attempt by governing bodies to represent a student consensus." Meisner's platform is all about consensus. He wants to foster and maintain a tighter relationship between SCSU and the student body. If elected, Meisner plans to have "more forums, newsletters and definitely more student involvement in the administration and politics of UTSC." Following Brad was Carrie Shultz. This is Carrie's first time running for any position in student government. She defends her lack of experience, with keen observation. One thing that Carrie notes is the number of students crossing Ellesmere from the Outer Lot and how this kind of traffic is not entirely safe: "A pedestrian bridge over Ellesmere should be in planning. A proactive solution is needed before someone is hurt." Last, but not least, of the presidential candidates is Scott Tremblay. Scott stresses that student representation is all about perspectives, and he certainly has a lot of perspective. As the Vice President of Students, Scott has had a number of opportunities to interact with students on a personal level. He helped run a number of events this year, as well as acting as a medic for the Men's Rugby team.

The Vice President of Academics category is just as tight as the Presidential race. There are two candidates running for the Vice President of Academics this year. They are Jessica Mariano and Preet Virdi. Jessica has a number of interesting ideas for next year. One in particular, is to hold monthly seminars where each division of UTSC can present what they are working on. Jessica states: "One of the best ways to foster a thirst for knowledge, and to establish a sense of UTSC pride, is to be aware of the type of research being done at UTSC." Currently the Life Sciences Representative for SCSU, Jessica certainly has the experience and drive to fill the role of Vice President of Academics. Preet Virdi's platform is a bit different then Jessica's, which is another reason why the SCSU elections are great this year. There is variety! Preet wants to bring political awareness to UTSC: "As UTSC students, we deserve to be connected to the world outside." In her speech, Preet also mentions that her campaign is similar to that of Dan Bandurka and Jacinda Clarke, which focus on clubs, club funding, and student involvement opportunities. The identical posters of these three candidates are impossible to miss. Throughout the elections, Dan, Jacinda, and Preet have acted as a powerful triad. One thing to note, Preet is currently the Management Divisional Representative, so she too has experience working with SCSU.

There are two students running this year for Vice-President of Operations, Sanna Szeto and the aforementioned Jacinda Clarke. According to Clarke, "The VP of Operations is the chair of the committee responsible for allocating club funding." So, UTSC will need someone with strong accounting skills, which Clarke does. Not only was she the director of Human Resources for MESA in 2001-2002, but also she was the President in 2002-2003. Clarke also has experience working at a public accounting firm. Pretty damn impressive, but then again, so is Sanna Szeto's resume. Szeto is currently the VP of Operations. She has been actively involved with SCSU for two years, last year as the Management Representative and this year as VP Operations. Szeto has sat on the College Council of the university for 4 years, 3 years on the Academic Committee, and 2 years on the Planning and Budget Committee. From listening to Dan, Jacinda, and Sanna speak, it sounds as though there was some sort of conflict with the way club funding was handled this year. If elected, Jacinda wants to improve the club funding application process, while Sanna, "believes [she] did a good job this year and [doesn't] see why this can't continue." Only time will tell.

By default, Anjali Mohan will be next year's Vice President of Students. The VP of Students basically organizes the majority of the social events that take place on Campus. Anjali already has some pretty good ideas for next year. Some of her ideas include improving the quality of pub nights by accessing a larger variety of music and better DJ's. Anjali seems pretty eager to boost UTSC's morale: "I hope to bring to the student body bigger, better and more events throughout the year, and at the very least, one ever other week." Zawadi Nyambu, who is the only candidate running for Social Activities Officer, will most likely be assisting Anjali. The most memorable moment of the forum is easily awarded to Zawadi. Instead of making a speech, Zawadi broke out the boom box and busted a move. Zawadi's campaign slogan is also worth mentioning: "I Got Yo Back." It's about time that someone does. With these two students handling events next year, UTSC's social calendar is bound to broaden.

Jonathan Agg is the only student running for Clubs Officer, so it is safe to say he will get the job. He is also the Humanities Divisional Representative this year. Like many other candidates running, he has SCSU experience. At the forum, Jon was questioned about his plans for clubs next year. One student specifically wanted to know what was being done about all the segregated clubs on campus, and whether there will be any efforts in uniting the clubs through events. Jon stated that strong efforts would be made in those areas.

There are two candidates, Alana Harrington and Israq Alim, running for Life Sciences Representative this year. Alana Harrington has an interesting campaign, which focuses on the Anti-Calendar. Alana states the Anti-Calendar "would be responsible for informing students, about prior class opinions regarding courses offered within the Life Science Division." It kind of makes one wish there were Anti-Calendars for every academic division. Another one of Alana's ideas is to host guest speakers from St. Michael's Hospital (U of T Affiliated). She states: "This would provide students with an opportunity to speak with professionals from many different fields of medicine, science, and research." Ishraq has a very powerful campaign as well. He chooses to focus on academic resources: "The chairs and desks in the study spaces need to be repaired and the vandalism on the desks not only need to be removed, but also should be prevented from happening again." Like Alana, Ishraq too wants to host guest speakers. However, Ishraq wants to have guest speakers from the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Cancer society. Lastly, Ishraq adds: "I want SCSU to collaborate and work with clubs that represent Life Science Students [...] By working with these clubs SCSU can better understand the needs of Life Science Students." Due to the quality of the candidates, the Life Science Representative race is going to be a close one.

Last and certainly not least, I had the opportunity to converse with Jeff Rybak, the only Humanities Representative candidate, and Virata Thaivasigamony, the sole Management Representative candidate. At the moment, Jeff is primarily concerned with the effect that the double cohort will have on UTSC. He believes that "it is going to take leadership on many levels to help the double cohort properly integrate," which is why he stresses the need for mentorship. Over the next year, Jeff states his agenda will include "working to shape the evolution of UTSC so that we can take advantage of all the benefits of our campus." Virata was both well spoken and emotionally charged at the forum. Among his concerns are the need for networking and change. He states that "the need for networking has become increasingly apparent in the business community. Grades alone can no longer entail success." One creative idea that Virata proposes is an international exchange program, which connects UTSC with prominent universities around the world . These two candidates appear eager and able to tackle the tasks that will lie before them.

The voting period for the elections is March 5th and 6th. To vote, simply head to the Meeting Place. It is very important that these elections be taken seriously. The SCSU plays a very crucial role in how UTSC operates as a whole. If we neglect to take an interest in the elections, it will reflect on how next year pans out. Take the time to vote.

Life You Dumbass!

Or The Lord of Darkness actually gets disgusted by something

Satan's Bakesale

Andrew C. Epstein, (TLOD)

There's this complex my mother has. She gives in to any kind of sensationalism and becomes completely obsessed. If she reads something in print then it absolutely must be true. Of course those of us who reside on planet Earth know better (although you will only find truth in this column). So I make a point not to get flustered by what I read as I've learned to question the information I'm fed. But leave it to Rolling Stone magazine to print something so stomach-turning that I just couldn't keep my mouth shut (although most who know me will say that I always have something to say).

The story I read was on a group of gay men who have formed a weird internet subculture made up of what they call "bug-chasers" and "gift-givers". To boil it down here's how it works. Amongst these men, the most erotic act possible is to have sex with someone who is HIV positive and contract the virus from them. Those are the bug-chasers, and the gift givers are the men who wish to give them this "erotic" virus.

In the article, a young man involved with this practice claims that it's the breaking of the ultimate taboo, and they reach true sexual ecstasy when they are infected. His attitude on the resulting (shortened) lifetime burden was rather flippant. He basically felt that he would take the meds and just live his life as he did before. But what he doesn't realize is that the 16 pills that he'll have to take everyday have side effects ranging all the way from back pain to death (I've actually spared you the most gag-inducing effects). This guy surfed bareback (a.k.a. pro-unprotected) sex sites looking for HIV + candidates to hook up with. The scary thing is that both parties involved are quite aware of the situation. The gift-giver knows that the bug-chaser wants the virus, and so the act becomes highly erotic for them as well.

The author of the article expressed concern about this growing problem and about the lack of concern by various AIDS prevention organizations and GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation). These organizations seemed to feel that bug chasing was more of a sensationalized idea and not a real problem.

Actually I think they have the right idea.

If someone gives up their right to live then I feel that they are no longer anyone's responsibility. If we were to just let these people die off then we would have a lot more time and money to spend on the unfortunate individuals who didn't want HIV in the first place.

So I applaud GLAAD and every other organization who is working hard everyday to end the scourge of AIDS for not acknowledging this group of dumbasses. The further acknowledgement of this group would only divert precious funds for medication and also scar the image of the homosexual community. It's not like gay men don't have enough problems dealing with discrimination, they don't need every homicidal ignorant fool in the world thinking that all homosexuals want to spread AIDS to the world.

Some theorized that people turn to bug chasing as an alternative to suicide as it's not as frightening to contract an STD than it is to shoot yourself or jump off a building. However I think even a suicidal individual would be frightened by the thought of basically wasting away, dying slowly for years, over a quick and sudden death.

But this only goes to prove that anything can be made to look attractive, just as long as people are so weak-willed that they are able to be led on by anyone promising risky sex. If Oliver Stone and Quentin Tarintino have taught us anything, it is that death is attractive and marketable, and people will embrace it in different ways. However this goes beyond enjoying watching profiles of famous serial killers on A&E.

In the end I feel it just boils down to the idea that extremely stupid people who make extremely stupid decisions shouldn't be given the same rights as everyone else. There should be separate stupid laws that protect the rest of us from the idiocy that exists in the world. If George W. Bush suddenly stopped talking about increasing the military budget and started talking about increasing the anti-stupidity budget I would take back everything bad I've ever said about the man.

However that will never come to pass, so we as a society will continue to endure idiots like the bug-chasers and anyone else who would throw their brain out the window. The good news is we won't have to put up with them forever. But that's ok, the world is over-populated as it is.

Oh, and in the wake of these events, I just want to say: to everyone who likes golden showers… all is forgiven… just don't touch me.

Student Emergency Response Team is forming at UTSC

Laura Smith

In September, 2003, an emergency first aid response team run by students is starting at UTSC. Many universities in Canada already have emergency response teams, and we will join them in the Association of Campus Emergency Response Teams (ACERT).

The Student Emergency Response Team (SERT) will be able to be present at any event around campus. A university-affiliated club or group can request the services of two or more responders to be present at their events. This service will be free, and is open to all clubs and groups at UTSC. The team can be reserved ahead of time, and responders will attend the event solely to provide first aid if needed. This could include supplying a band-aid, or performing intermediate first aid while waiting for an ambulance to arrive. The responders will come to the event equipped with first aid kits and easily identifiable uniforms. As our school and SERT grow, responsibilities could potentially grow to providing first aid certification to students for a small fee and possibly providing 24 hour on-call service. In terms of off-campus events, the team will have the opportunity to attend national first aid conferences and competitions held by ACERT during the school year.

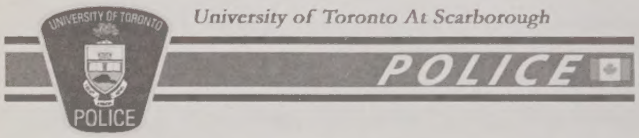
Many people at UTSC are already trained in first aid. To be a part of SERT, you will need to have your Standard First Aid and CPR 'C'. The time commitment for the club will not be immense, and SERT would really like to have you!

If you are interested in the initial planning stages of the team, please contact Laura Smith as soon as possible so that you can help set everything up before this year is done.

If you would like to serve on the team next year as a First Responder, feel free to contact Laura Smith so that your interest can be recorded.

If you feel that you could use our services at an event, remember us when you are planning for next year!

Laura can be reached by e-mail at 01smithl@utsc.utoronto.ca or by phone at 416.282.0144.



COUNTERFEIT ALERT

UTSC Police have received reports that counterfeit Canadian $10.00 bills have been used recently at UTSC. Be on the lookout for bills bearing serial numbers:
EBH 3849272, HEB 2498723, BEH2738974.

It is a criminal offence to knowingly present counterfeit currency as genuine. To learn more about counterfeit money, attend the UTSC Police website at: *www.utsc.utoronto/police*. See the Counterfeit Currency article under the Facts Sheet Section for tips and training on detecting counterfeit money.

If you come into possession of a bill that you believe is counterfeit, turn it over to Police immediately. If you can, discreetly notify UTSC Police at 416-287-7333 while the user is still present. If you have information regarding individuals or groups responsible for the manufacture, distribution or use of counterfeit currency call Police or if you wish anonymity call Student Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS for a cash reward.

events

If you know of an event that might benefit from a little bit of buzz (i.e. Ticketmaster is not involved) let us know by sending an email with "EVENTS" in the subject line to: *undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca*

***The Underground* and its staff do not guarantee any information printed in this listing. Do to the often sketchy nature of such events, the details are liable to change, or be outright false. Make use of any contact information provided beforehand.... and otherwise, have fun!**

Mar 5 Green Economics (2PM, Venue: SW-309) How can companies realistically "do well while doing good" in the face of modern environmental concerns?
Author Bob Willard will examine the role of business and corporate social responsibility.

Mar 5 Organic Food Dinner (7PM, Venue: Attic) Free admission for a limited number of people. RSVP to find out more, 2nd Nature!

March 6 Environmentally Friendly businesses that actually turn a profit. Talk/discussion by Bob Willard. 2-4 in S309.

March 6 It's not just vegetables... Organic dinner in the Attic. 6pm-8pm. Limited seating. RSVP if interested to *2ndn@utsc.utoronto.ca*

March 6 Keith Davey Lecture. *The American Rome*. Isabel Bader Theatre (93 Charles St. W.). 4:30pm. Free.

March 6 10AM Albert Moritz. Author reading in H402. Free. Presented by the Cultural Affairs Literary Comittee.

March 6 Noon-2PM Tanuja Desai Hidier--best selling author. Reading: Combination Room, Trinity College. 6 Hoskin Ave. Light refreshments. 7PM: Same. Elephant & Castle. 212 King St. W.

March 6-9 8PM Victoria College Drama Society presents A.R. Gurney's Love Letters. $8 students, $10 non-student. Isabel Blader Theater, 93 Charles St. W.

March 7 8PM Funk 'n' Soul Revival 3. 15-piece line-up delivering the sounds of the last four decades and the future. Revival Bar, 783 College St. $15 advance, $20 at door. Tickets available from Play de Record, Soundscapes, Rotate This, and CD Replay.

March 7 8PM International Women's Day at the Hart House. Delectable Diva. Cash bar and free desserts. Poetry, drag kings, sketch teater, b-girls, guitars. And free stuff.

March 7 8PM Bauhauswerk. Presented by weewerk. A night of art, architecture, craft and design. Indie-rockers The Barcelona Pavilion play at 10PM. PWYC. 620A Queen Street West (above Rotate This). 416.365.7056.

March 8 9PM-3AM Savour the Flavour. D+D Productions celebrates International Women's Day, raising funds in support of Women Working With Immigrant Women. DJ Denise Benson and DJ Lytes. Nujazz, Old School, Hip Hop, R&B, Soulful House. The Mockingbird, 580 King St. W. $10 advance, $15 at door. Tickets available at Toronto Women's Bookstore. 73 Harbord St.

March 9 - Last day to cancel Winter Session classes that you haven't been to in a month and you skipped the midterm because you were SO HIGH.

March 9 1PM Last Chance to see Bauhauswerk presentation. 4PM Video screening: A Day Like Any Other Day in Beirut. A counter-take on questions of lifestyle; pragram of new video from the Middle East, selected and presented by media theorist L. U. Marks. 620A Queen Street West (above Rotate This). 416.365.7056. $3 suggested.

March 10,11 10AM-3PM AIDS awareness in Meeting place. Information Booths from local organizations.

March 11 8PM Trish Salah (transexual activist poet) reading. Oakham House Campus Center at Gould and Church. Free.

March 12 10AM-3PM Aids Awarenss in Meeting Place. Informations Booths from student groups.

March 12 6-8PM Deconstructing AIDS seminar. Council Chambers, S-402. Refreshments provided.

March 12-15 8PM An evening of theater about theater. This is a Play and The Actor's Nightmare. Directed by Paula Sperdakos. $10 general/ $8 students. Tickets on sale in Meeting Place and through Cultural Affairs Office, B306.

March 13 5PM Art for AIDS. Student Village Center. Food, dance, visual art, poetry.

March 13 8PM art ATTACK. An evening of aesthetic activism. Poster Making and taping party. (S&M?). The Cat's Eye, Victoria College. Free food and drinks. http://members.rogers.com/vues/.

March 17 1PM Darrne O'Donnell, playwright and diurector. Free, Leigha Lee Brown Theater.

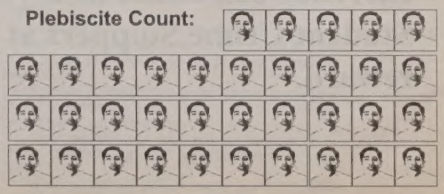
March 17 7-10PM Open Mike Night. Staff, faculty, and students encouraged to come and participate in the 8th annual Open Mike Night in the Attic. Presented by the Cultural affairs Literary Committee.

HART HOUSE · University of Toronto

Invites students to submit their names for the position of UTSc Representative to the Hart House Board of Stewards for the 2003/ 2004 academic year.
If you are a UTSc student who wishes to become involved in the senior decision making committee at Hart House, please let your interest be known, by March 14th to:

Office of Student Affairs
Room B320 - Baden Wing

For further information regarding this position you may call:

Margaret Hancock
Warden, Hart House
416.978.2436

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